

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

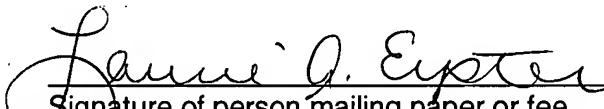
In re patent application of:)
Liu et al.) Before the Examiner
Serial No. FILED HEREWITH) Not Yet Known
Filed July 10, 2003) Group Art Unit
SPINAL IMPLANT METHOD AND) Not Yet Known
CUTTING TOOL PREPARATION)
ACCESSORY FOR MOUNTING THE)
IMPLANT)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider this Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to examination. Any additional necessary fees may be charged to or overpayment credited to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include payment of issue fees.

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR Section 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450			
 Signature of person mailing paper or fee			